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Swan Islands  
FILE DESIGNATION  
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| LAB  | TAR  | TR   | XMB |
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| USIA | NSA  | CIA  | NSC |
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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TO : Department of State

1970 JAN 21 PM 1 00

INFO: SAN PEDRO SULA

PUBLISHING & REPRO.  
SERVICES DIVISION

FROM : Embassy TEGUCIGALPA

DATE: January 16, 1970

SUBJECT : Swan Islands

REF : Tegucigalpa 4936

1. Attached are five photo copies of Honduran Foreign Ministry note No. 2165 dated December 5 which acknowledges receipt of our November 12 note and asks that negotiations for the proposed agreement recognizing Honduran sovereignty begin as soon as possible.

2. The Foreign Ministry note implicitly recognizes that the United States' note requested rights to maintain facilities on the Swan Islands without payment of any charges. In its reply, the Foreign Ministry does not specifically comment on the Honduran position regarding possible payment of charges but it does say that the Honduran Government "is prepared to formally permit the Government of the United States of America to maintain on said islands the installations which actually exist, a radio beacon for international navigation and a high altitude meteorological station, services of international benefit which are available to all nations".

3. Conservative, independent EL DIA in a January 10 editorial urged the Honduran Government to promptly prepare itself for the negotiation. It also opined that Article 7 of the Honduran Constitution provides an ample legal base for Honduras to accent continued U.S. operation of the radio beacon and meteorological station on Great Swan.

Enclosure *quk*

Honduran Foreign Ministry note No. 2165.

DECONTROL DECEMBER 31, 1971

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